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by France in her painful transition from an agricultural to an industrial state of society. He shows Napoleon no free agent in his economic policy but profoundly compelled by clamorous French protectionists ever urging higher duties by arguments now sufficiently familiar. The effect of this system was ruinous to Berg, a state even at that time the most completely industrial on the Continent, a "miniature England" as it was justly called by contemporaries, the present centre of Germany's great industrial power along the Rhine. This state, absolutely dependent upon foreign markets, found them everywhere closed by Napoleon. The Bergois earnestly and persistently sought annexation to the French Empire, that thus they might share its markets. Instantly all the amenities of the struggle for existence were glaringly displayed. German manufacturers of the left bank of the Rhine protested vehemently against admitting German manufacturers of the right bank, painting the inevitable ruin that the new competition would bring upon French industries.

The gifts of the gods are mixed. The French gave enlightened political, legal and social institutions to the right bank and by a fatality which they could not master crushed this region by an economic policy that ruined rich and poor, that closed hundreds of factories and turned the high altars of churches into receptacles for the precarious commodities of smugglers. It was a strange paradox that that German state most directly controlled by France was the one that suffered most. Berg alone of all the countries of Europe drew, no benefit from the Continental System.

Mr. Schmidt's book is, in short, a model of monographic writing, a rich contribution to historical knowledge. It will henceforth be indispensable for the student of Napoleonic Germany.

There are several appendices unusually informing, a chart showing the regions composing the Grand Duchy and containing a variety of statistical data, a contemporary map, and critical notes on the memoirs of Beugnot hitherto considered so important. A similarly severe appraisal of other autobiographic values of this period would be of the highest service to historical students.

CHARLES DOWNER HAZEN.

Madame Récamier et ses Amis. Thèse présentée à la Faculté des Lettres de l'Université de Paris, par ÉDOUARD HERRIOT. (Paris: Plon, Nourrit et Cie. 1904. Two volumes, pp. lxxiv, 357, 438.)

Two difficulties confront the writer attempting to deal with the history of Madame Récamier. In the first place the very complexity of her life makes the task no easy one. As M. Herriot points out in his introduction, it may be going too far to say that Abbaye-aux-Bois was a second Versailles and that the circle there over which Madame Récamier presided holds as important a place in the literary history of France as does Port Royal in its religious history, still it is true that the

whole history of the half-century from 1800 to 1850 may be summarized in the life of this woman who during those fifty years exercised an important influence politically as well as intellectually and socially. To make a vivid picture of Madame Récamier involves therefore not the presentation of an individual portrait, but of a group, and a group so arranged that one figure shall stand out in the foreground.

The second difficulty arises from the subtlety of Madame Récamier's influence. Unlike her friend Madame de Staël she did not herself write but inspired others to literary effort, nor was her influence forceful and direct, but indirect and intangible. According to one of her admirers neither the pen nor the brush could adequately represent the graceful charm of her power; it could be represented only by music.

His own inability to meet this second difficulty M. Herriot frankly recognizes and for a delicate and really successful appreciation modestly refers his readers to Sainte-Beuve. What he does propose to do is to write a detailed and impartial history of the facts of Madame Récamier's life. For such an attempt there is ample room, since previous accounts were either written with a distinct bias, such for instance as Madame Lenormant's, or else deal with Madame Récamier only incidentally. But M. Herriot while realizing the impossibility of treating her apart from her contemporaries, proceeds to make her not a subordinate but the central figure of the group. Beginning with her childhood and early training, he traces her growing influence from its dawn under the Directory to its meridian under the Restoration and develops with elaborate care her relations to her endless series of lovers and admirers, naturally with special emphasis on Madame de Staël, Benjamin Constant and Chateaubriand. His judgment is on the whole decidedly favorable. Like Sainte-Beuve he gives full credit to her virtue and finds her ruling motive not in heedless ambition for power but in an eager and constant if sometimes thoughtless desire to give pleasure.

The treatment of the subject well accords with the title—*Madame Récamier et ses Amis*, but the reader can not help wishing that the friends were not made so prominent, in other words that M. Herriot had not drawn with quite such scrupulous attention to detail the minor figures of the picture.

The form of the book would be better moreover and the impression more vivid if the author had relegated to foot-notes some of the matter presented in the text, but the amount of hitherto unpublished material included and the elaborately annotated bibliography make the work a mine of information and an indispensable basis for any further study of Madame Récamier.

ELOISE ELLERY.

A History of Modern England. By HERBERT PAUL. Vol. III. (London and New York: The Macmillan Company. 1905. Pp. 454.)

THE third volume of Mr. Paul's history begins with the ministerial changes on the death of Lord Palmerston late in 1865 and ends with the